

# NEVADANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Nevadans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Nevada. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Nevada.*

## **INCOME: NEVADANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Nevada was \$50,219.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Nevada was \$48,496, a drop of 3.4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN NEVADA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Nevada had 318,000 adults without insurance (16.5 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Nevada had 425,000 adults without insurance (17.4 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Nevada had 39,316 children benefit from the SCHIP program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN NEVADA**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Nevada was \$8,252.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$10,464, a 27 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Nevada was \$17,397.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, it was \$20,594, an 18 percent increase.<sup>9</sup>
- Number of Nevadans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 25,776<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Nevadans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 21,853<sup>11</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR NEVADA RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Nevada was \$1.569 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Nevada is \$2.808 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Nevada was \$2,255.<sup>14</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Nevada is \$4,035, \$1,780 (79 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: NEVADANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Nevada – 340,680<sup>16</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Nevada – \$903<sup>17</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: NEVADANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Nevadans killed in Iraq – 23<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Nevadans wounded in Iraq – 123<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Nevadans killed in Afghanistan – 8<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Nevadans wounded in Afghanistan – 8<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Nevada – 243,716<sup>22</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING NEVADA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 242 estates in Nevada paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 26 estates in Nevada will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>24</sup>
- In contrast, 54,000 workers in Nevada would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>25</sup>

## **CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN NEVADA IS ON THE RISE**

- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in Nevada in 2000 – 524.2<sup>26</sup>
- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in Nevada in 2005 – 606.8<sup>27</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 4,606,849<sup>28</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 1,264,484<sup>29</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST NEVADANS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Nevadans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Nevada residents each received an average of \$3,795 in tax cuts, while middle class Nevada residents received only \$403.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Nevada residents will receive an average of \$73,142 in tax cuts, while middle class Nevada residents will only receive \$737.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Nevada residents will each receive an average of \$131,849 in tax cuts, while middle class Nevada residents will only receive \$825.<sup>32</sup>

**The richest Nevadans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Nevadans received 8.0 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Nevadans will get 38.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7.8 percent of the tax cut.<sup>34</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Nevadans will get 56 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7.0 percent of the tax cut.<sup>35</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Nevadans.**

- In 2010, the richest Nevadans will receive an average of \$30,089 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Nevadans will be getting over 68.2 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>36</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Nevadans will receive an average of \$38 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 1.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>37</sup>

### **SOURCES**

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